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### Project provides solar power for rebuilding in New Orleans

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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June 5, 2006

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### **PROJECT PROVIDES SOLAR POWER FOR REBUILDING IN NEW ORLEANS**

#### **MISSOULA—**

The University of Montana Environmental Studies Program has provided a portable solar power system to help in rebuilding areas of the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Len Broberg, director of the UM program, traveled to New Orleans in May to deliver the solar power system, which he constructed. It will be used in a project with Kansas State University, the Tulane City Center and Project Locus.

The portable system will provide solar power for tools used to rebuild the House of Dance and Feathers, a community museum of Mardi Gras Indian history, and the home of museum owner Ronald Lewis, which is located on the same site.

“Our goals are to provide electrical power to a community in need and to model the practical use of solar power,” Broberg said. “We want to encourage people to think about solar power as they rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. More solar power means less greenhouse gas emissions.”

After the Lower Ninth Ward construction project is completed, the portable solar

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system will be used by community-based organizations in the area for various reconstruction and educational purposes. The Tulane City Center, which is coordinating multiple university and community partnerships throughout New Orleans, will manage future use of the system.

Dan Etheridge, assistant director of the center, is encouraged by the simple application of such appropriate technology at a time when there is much talk and little action regarding progressive rebuilding strategies.

"With so much work to be done, it is too easy not to include options like solar power in the rebuilding process," Etheridge said. "We are grateful that The University of Montana Environmental Studies Program recognized that we needed some assistance to fully realize the potential in New Orleans, and that they acted so quickly and professionally to get the job done."

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